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Students increasingly having to work to fund university

New research from Halifax reveals that two-thirds (66%) of students have a job to help support them through their studies.

Many students need more than one job for financial support...

Almost half of all students (48%) have one job to aid them in funding their studies, with nearly a fifth (18%) having two or more jobs.

Fig 1. Students who have one or more jobs

Region	% Employed
Northern Ireland	77%
Scotland	73%
South West	68%
South East	67%
North East	67%
London	65%
North West	64%
West Midlands	64%
Yorkshire & Humberside	64%
East Midland	61%
Wales	60%
Eastern	58%
UK Average	66%

Students based in Northern Ireland are the most likely to work to fund their studies - just over three-quarters (77%). In a close second are Scottish students with almost three-quarters (73%) working one or more jobs. However, students from the Eastern university region are the least likely to work while studying with just over half (58%) having a job.

Students increasingly working during term time for extra cash...

Of those students surveyed, almost half (41%) have a job during term time to aid them financially. Students in Northern Ireland are the most likely to hold down a part-time job whilst studying with almost three-quarters (64%) of them working during term time. Scottish students were second most likely to work while studying with almost half (48%) working during term time.

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Fig 2. Students working during term time

Region	% Employed
Northern Ireland	64%
Scotland	48%
London	47%
South East	43%
West Midlands	42%
North West	42%
South West	41%
Yorkshire & Humberside	38%
North East	35%
East Midlands	34%
Eastern	33%
Wales	33%
UK Average	41%

Scottish students graft the longest...

On average, students in Scotland and Northern Ireland worked the longest hours, at an average of 8 hours per week. Almost a quarter (23%) of the students in Northern Ireland work between 16 and 20 hours per week, compared to only 6% of those in the West Midlands. Students in Scotland were the most likely to work more than 21 hours a week with 9%, compared to just 2% of students in the South West.

Fig 3. Number of hours of paid work during term time

Region	% Working 16-20 Hours Per Week
Northern Ireland	23%
Scotland	14%
Eastern	10%
South East	10%
Wales	9%
North East	9%
North West	9%
London	8%
East Midlands	7%
South West	7%
Yorkshire & Humberside	7%
West Midlands	6%
UK Average	9%

Students in the West Midlands earn the most...

Students in West Midlands are the highest earning during their studies with an average weekly wage of £59.50, compared to students in Wales who are the lowest earners with a weekly wage packet of just £27.70.

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Fig 4. Average weekly earnings

Region	Average weekly earning
West Midlands	£59.50
Northern Ireland	£54.00
London	£51.00
Scotland	£48.60
South East	£39.60
Yorkshire & Humberside	£37.50
North West	£35.20
Eastern	£32.20
South West	£32.10
East Midlands	£31.00
North East	£29.70
Wales	£27.70
UK Average	£39.90

London students earning a fair pay packet working part-time...

Almost a fifth (18%) of the students surveyed earned £50-£100 per week - students in Northern Ireland were the most likely to be in this wage bracket with 39% indicating they were. Students in Scotland came in a respectable second with almost a quarter (24%) earning £50-£100 per week, compared to just 11% of the students in the Eastern university region.

Interestingly, London had the largest proportion of students earning over £100 per week with 17% of students in this bracket. This compares to just 5% of students in Wales who earn more than £100 per week.

Fig 5. Students earning over £100 per week

Region	% Earning above £100 per week
London	17%
Scotland	16%
Northern Ireland	13%
Eastern	12%
Yorkshire & Humberside	12%
South East	11%
North East	11%
North West	9%
West Midlands	9%
East Midlands	7%
South West	7%
Wales	5%
UK Average	11%

It appears the image of the partying student is out dated...

Surprisingly, students are only spending an average of 5.9 hours a week in the pub. Also, they are only spending on average 9.6 hours on other socialising and 10 hours watching television a week. It appears that the students of today are spending their free time more productively by either working or studying.

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Fig 6. Average hours a week spent during term time

Activity	Average hours spent per week
Watching TV	10.00
Other Socialising	9.6
Playing computer games	6.2
In bars and pubs	5.9

There is still time for some students to spend in the pub and watching TV...

However, it's not all work and no play for students as some are still finding time to have fun. Just over a third (38%) of the students managed to spend more than 5 hours a week in the pub as well as nearly two-thirds (58%) spent more than 5 hours a week watching television.

Fig 7. Percentage of students spending 5 hours or more per week on other activities

Activity	% of time spent
Watching TV	58%
Other Socialising	55%
In bars and pubs	38%
Playing computer games	32%

Mike Regnier, Head of Banking at Halifax, comments on the finding:

"It is vital that students make the most of the finances at this crucial point in their lives and choosing the right bank account needs to be a key consideration for them. An account with an attractive 0% overdraft rate could prove to be very beneficial."

Ends.

Editors' notes

Research was conducted by online market research company Opinionpanel Research on behalf of Halifax. Opinionpanel's Student Panel is the largest online market research panel of its kind in the UK with over 60,000 panelists. Survey took place in May 2008.

From 4th August 2008 the Halifax Student Account features:

- **Up to £3,000 interest-free overdraft for up to five years** while you are a student and for one year after graduating (up to a maximum of six years)
- **2% gross on in-credit balances**
- Commission-free foreign currency and American Express Travellers Cheques
- 25% off AA membership for a year
- 20% discount on card care insurance
- Online and telephone banking plus the option to receive your statements online
- Withdraw up to £300 a day
- Visa Debit facility on your card so no matter where you are, you can use your card wherever you see the Visa sign in shops and at cash machines
- Cheque book available on request

For more information or to apply call 0845 607 2261, visit:

<http://www.halifax.co.uk/bankaccounts/studentcurrentaccount.asp>

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